

# Rethinking Tourism Villages: How Ecological Justice Shapes Sustainable Development

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Tourism village management plays a pivotal role in advancing sustainable development, particularly in rural areas endowed with rich biodiversity and natural resource potential. Ecological justice, which underscores equitable access to natural resources and shared responsibility in maintaining ecosystem balance, is a critical concept for ensuring sustainability in tourism village management. This study investigates the integration of ecological justice into tourism village management and examines the challenges and opportunities associated with its implementation. Utilizing a qualitative approach, the research explores strategies and policies that promote environmental sustainability while enhancing the welfare of local communities. The findings reveal that participatory approaches, environmental education, and policies rooted in local wisdom are essential for achieving ecological justice. The novelty of this study lies in its focus on ecological justice as a comprehensive framework that transcends economic considerations to incorporate ecological and social equilibrium. By proposing a model for sustainable tourism village management, this research contributes to the discourse on sustainable development, providing practical insights for policymakers and stakeholders in achieving long-term environmental and community welfare objectives.*

**Keywords:** *ecological justice, tourism village management, sustainability, community participation, local wisdom.*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Tourism villages have become one of the development models that are widely applied in various regions as an effort to optimize the potential of local natural and cultural tourism. Tourism villages not only have a positive impact on the economy of the surrounding community, but also play a role in preserving the local environment and culture. However, in practice, the management of

tourism villages often faces challenges, especially related to the balance between economic development, environmental preservation, and the social welfare of the local community.

Ecological justice is a concept that emphasizes the fair distribution of benefits and burdens associated with the use of natural resources. In the context of managing tourism villages, the application of ecological justice aims to ensure that all parties, especially local communities living around tourist areas, receive economic benefits without sacrificing environmental sustainability. Conversely, ecological injustice often occurs when tourism development only benefits certain parties, while local communities have to bear negative impacts such as environmental damage, loss of access to natural resources, and reduced quality of life. The importance of implementing ecological justice in the management of tourism villages is becoming increasingly relevant along with the increasing global awareness of environmental crises, such as climate change, deforestation, and declining biodiversity. Management of tourism villages that does not take environmental aspects into serious consideration can result in ecosystem damage that ultimately harms all parties, including local communities and tourists. Therefore, an approach is needed that integrates ecological justice in every stage of tourism village management, from planning, implementation, to evaluation. The implementation of ecological justice in tourism village management not only ensures environmental preservation, but also contributes to the long-term sustainability of the tourism village itself. By actively involving local communities in management and decision-making, ecological justice can be realized, so that a harmonious relationship between humans and nature is created. This is expected to be the basis for the development of sustainable tourism villages, where economic, social, and environmental welfare can go hand in hand.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODS**

This study uses a qualitative approach to analyze the implementation of ecological justice in the management of tourist villages. Qualitative methods were

chosen because they are able to provide an in-depth understanding of social, cultural, and environmental interactions in the context of managing tourist villages, as well as revealing the perceptions and experiences of local communities related to ecological justice. Some of the methods used in this study are:

1. **Literature Study** Literature study was conducted to collect theoretical information on the concept of ecological justice and tourism village management. The literature reviewed includes books, journals, research reports, and government policies related to ecological justice, sustainable development, and community-based tourism management.
2. **In-depth Interview** In-depth interviews were conducted with various parties involved in the management of tourism villages, such as village officials, tourism village managers, local communities, and traditional leaders. This interview aims to obtain a direct perspective on the implementation of ecological justice, the challenges faced, and the strategies used to maintain a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability
3. **Participatory Observation** Researchers are directly involved in activities in tourist villages to observe management practices carried out, especially those related to environmental conservation and local community involvement. This observation helps researchers understand the interaction between humans and nature, as well as identify potential environmental problems that arise from tourism activities.
4. **Focus Group Discussion (FGD)** FGD is conducted by involving local community groups, tourism village managers, and other relevant parties to discuss ecological justice issues in tourism village management. This discussion is focused on efforts to find collective solutions to environmental and social problems faced in tourism management.
5. **Data Analysis** Data obtained from interviews, observations, and FGDs were analyzed using thematic analysis methods. This analysis was carried out by

grouping data into main themes related to ecological justice, such as distribution of economic benefits, local community involvement, and environmental conservation. Data were analyzed descriptively to describe how ecological justice is implemented and integrated in the management of tourist villages.

6. Data Triangulation to ensure the validity and reliability of the data, data triangulation was conducted by comparing the results of interviews, observations, and literature study results. This triangulation aims to obtain a more objective and comprehensive picture of the implementation of ecological justice in the management of tourist villages.

Through this approach, research is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of the implementation of ecological justice in tourist villages and provide recommendations for managers and stakeholders in improving the quality of management based on ecological justice.

### **III. RESULT OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS**

#### **A. Result of Research**

This study successfully uncovered various findings related to the implementation of ecological justice in the management of tourist villages. The results of the study indicate that the implementation of ecological justice in tourist villages still faces challenges, but several practices that support this principle have begun to be implemented. The following are the results of the study which are divided into several main themes:

#### **1. Local Community Involvement in Tourism Village Management**

The results of the study show that the involvement of local communities in managing tourist villages still varies in various regions. In some tourist villages, local communities are actively involved in decision-making, managing tourism activities, and utilizing natural resources. This shows that there are efforts to

implement ecological justice by providing fair access to local communities to the economic benefits of tourism. However, in some cases, local communities feel less involved as a whole, especially in strategic decision-making. This lack of active participation can be caused by a lack of understanding or limited access to information, so that the economic benefits generated from managing tourist villages are enjoyed more by a handful of certain parties, such as investors or external managers.

## **2. Distribution of Economic and Social Benefits**

The implementation of ecological justice in tourism villages is also related to how the distribution of economic benefits from the tourism sector is carried out. Several tourism villages have developed fair mechanisms to share profits from tourism activities, such as developing local community economic empowerment programs, skills training, and allocating funds for environmental maintenance. However, there are also tourism villages that experience injustice in the distribution of economic benefits. In this case, only a handful of groups enjoy the economic results, while some other local people do not receive adequate benefits. This gives rise to social tensions and has the potential to cause conflict between residents and a decrease in the quality of life.

## **3. Environmental Conservation and Sustainability**

This study found that tourism villages that integrate the principles of ecological justice tend to have better environmental conservation strategies. Some villages have adopted environmental policies based on local wisdom, such as protecting forests, water sources, and preserving local flora and fauna. Tourism activities are regulated in such a way as not to disrupt the balance of the ecosystem, such as limiting the number of tourists, promoting environmentally friendly tourism, and using renewable energy. On the other hand, there are tourism villages that still face environmental damage problems due to uncontrolled tourism development. Several villages reported increased pollution,

land degradation, and loss of biodiversity as a result of over-exploitation of natural resources to attract tourists. In this case, ecological justice has not been fully implemented, because the environmental damage that occurs will burden future generations.

#### **4. The Role of Local Policies and Regulations**

The existence of regulations and policies that support ecological justice plays an important role in realizing sustainable tourism village management. The results of the study show that tourism villages that have clear environmental regulations and involve the community in their preparation tend to be more successful in maintaining a balance between tourism development and environmental preservation. However, there are also tourism villages that do not have strong local policies in environmental management, so that the implementation of ecological justice is difficult to achieve. In this condition, central or regional government policies that are not contextual to local needs often become obstacles in the management of ecologically just tourism villages.

#### **5. Environmental Education and Awareness**

Environmental education has been shown to be an important factor in implementing ecological justice in tourism villages. Villages that prioritize environmental education for the community and tourists tend to be more successful in protecting the environment and actively involving local communities in conservation activities. Educational programs such as waste management training, water conservation, and introduction to local flora and fauna have succeeded in increasing public awareness of the importance of preserving the environment. On the other hand, tourism villages that pay less attention to environmental education aspects often face challenges in nature conservation efforts. The ignorance of the community and tourists about the importance of protecting the environment leads to behavior that is detrimental to the ecosystem, such as littering or destroying natural habitats.

## **B. Analysis**

From the results of this study, it can be concluded that ecological justice has not been fully realized in the management of tourist villages. Although some villages have implemented the principles of ecological justice through community involvement, distribution of economic benefits, and environmental conservation, many tourist villages still face major challenges in this regard. Factors such as lack of supporting regulations, unfair distribution of benefits, and low environmental education are the main obstacles. To strengthen the implementation of ecological justice, more inclusive policies, wider community participation, and increased environmental awareness through continuing education are needed. With these steps, the management of tourist villages can be more fair and sustainable, both from an economic, social, and ecological perspective.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **A. Conclusions**

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the implementation of ecological justice in the management of tourist villages still faces various challenges, but in some villages there have been positive steps towards achieving ecological justice. Ecological justice, which focuses on the fair distribution of benefits and burdens related to the use of natural resources, is essential to ensure that tourism development in tourist villages does not damage the environment and local communities.

### **B. Suggestions**

Based on the results of research on the implementation of ecological justice in the management of tourist villages, several suggestions that can be put forward to improve and strengthen sustainable and ecologically just management are as follows:

1. **Increasing Local Community Participation Community Empowerment:** Village governments and tourism village managers need to involve local communities

more actively in the entire management process, from planning to implementing tourism activities. This can be done by providing training to local communities to manage the tourism and environmental sectors independently. Transparency in Decision Making: Decision-making mechanisms must be transparent and involve representatives from all levels of society, so that each party has an equal opportunity to participate in determining the direction of tourism village management.

2. **Improve the Distribution of Economic Benefits Development of Local Economic Empowerment Programs:** The benefits of tourism villages must be distributed fairly, including through economic empowerment programs that involve local communities, such as entrepreneurship training, local product manufacturing, and tourism services. **Development of Community-Based Tourism Models:** Community-based tourism models can be a solution to ensure that local communities get maximum benefits from the tourism sector. Income from tourism activities can be used to improve community welfare, improve infrastructure, and preserve the environment.
3. **Strengthening Environmental Policy Formulation of Sustainable Local Policies:** The village government together with the community need to formulate clear local policies regarding environmental conservation and natural resource management in tourism villages. The policy must regulate limitations in the use of natural resources, such as restrictions on the number of tourists, prohibitions on environmentally damaging development, and the application of renewable energy. **Collaboration with the Government and Environmental Institutions:** Tourism villages must collaborate with local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and environmental institutions to obtain regulatory support and resources in implementing environmental policies that support ecological justice.



4. **Enhancing Environmental Education and Awareness Sustainable Education for Communities and Tourists:** Environmental education programs should be expanded, both for local communities and tourists. Training on waste management, natural resource conservation, and the importance of preserving biodiversity should be conducted continuously to raise awareness of the importance of preserving the environment. **Promotion of Eco- Friendly Tourism:** Tourism villages need to develop and promote eco- friendly tourism concepts, such as ecotourism and agro-tourism, which support nature conservation and provide educational experiences to tourists.
5. **Development of Environmentally Friendly Technology Implementation of Green Technology:** Tourism villages should start adopting environmentally friendly technology, such as sustainable clean water and waste management systems, the use of renewable energy such as solar power, and efficient waste management. This technology not only supports environmental conservation but also reduces the negative impacts of tourism on local ecosystems. **Innovation of Environmentally Based Tourism Products:** Local communities are encouraged to develop innovations in environmentally based tourism products, such as crafts from recycled materials, environmentally friendly local cuisine, and tourism activities based on nature conservation.
6. **Implementation of a Periodic Environmental Evaluation System** Tourism villages need to have a continuous monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that the management carried out remains in accordance with the principles of ecological justice. This evaluation includes an assessment of environmental impacts, distribution of economic benefits, and the level of local community involvement. **Participatory Supervision:** Local communities must be involved in the process of monitoring the management of tourism villages, so that any problems that arise can be immediately resolved collectively and sustainably. By implementing these suggestions, tourism village management can be more sustainable, socially and

ecologically just, and provide long-term benefits for local communities and the environment ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism.

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